

COMMENT OF
THE DAY

Fishing Habits

WHEN His Excellency, the Governor opened the annual fisheries exhibition at Aberdeen on Saturday he revealed that a revolution had quietly been taking place in the Colony's fishing fleet in the last eight years. Perhaps it should be called the first stage in a revolution which may have as its ultimate goal the one envisaged by the Governor—the formation of a modern Western-style trawler fleet with standards of technical efficiency as high as in any part of the world.

The first stage in this revolution was mechanisation. This does not mean that every fishing junk operating in the Colony's waters today is equipped with an engine. The figures show that 800 of 6,000 junks of all classes, or under one-seventh of the total, are mechanised. But the important point to stress is that 60 per cent of the landings of fish in the Colony now come from these mechanised vessels. Eight years ago they were just being introduced.

FROM the present stage to the creation of a modern trawler fleet capable of long distance operations may take many years. The prototypes of a modern Hongkong trawler are on the slipways already but the local fisherman who has only recently allowed himself to be convinced of the merits of mechanising his floating home and has borrowed several hundred dollars to do so, is not likely to take too readily to the idea—or the cost—of such a domestically-upsetting innovation as is now proposed.

The junkmaster who has mechanised his craft in the last eight years can also be considered among the more enterprising and more prosperous of the Colony's fisherfolk. It is therefore hard to see the idea of a revolutionary trawler fleet getting very far in Hongkong until the prototypes are able to offer some really staggering evidence of their capabilities; until, in short, they prove they are worth changing a way of life that has existed and, indeed, has been perfected during the course of a good many hundreds of years.

ONE of the first guarantees the fisherman might seek is that there are assured markets and therefore assured prices for his product. This is an important consideration and obviously trawler development will depend to a large extent on whether market conditions warrant the capital outlay involved.

At present, wholesale fish prices are at a record low, which is distinctly discouraging. Sir Alexander Grantham mentioned in his opening speech to the fisheries exhibition that "one or two" local firms were seeking export outlets for the surplus catch. If this venture proves successful—that is, if any fish are canned locally and assured markets are found in Southeast Asia, Japan and Korea—it may provide the necessary incentive for development of the local fishing fleet.

We are told the Hongkong fisherman is not "conservative" but progressive and enterprising. But that does not mean he has no head for elementary economics either. The trawler idea is a good one and it is to be hoped Government gives the fishing community every incentive to modernise in this way. But to do that they will also have to help create the necessary conditions to make the idea appealing and profitable.

NEW CHINA TRADE EMBARGO

TALKS LIKELY

NATO Countries

MORE TOUGH WEATHER FOR EUROPE

London, Feb. 13.

Snow and ice tightened their grip on many parts of Europe again today, after a brief respite, causing fresh disasters and hindering the efforts of rescue teams in the stricken areas.

Avalanches in Macedonia caused a large number of people and their fate is still unknown.

Thousands trapped by snow-dorms in the mountains of Italy are desperately short of food and supplies. Some hamlets have been cut off for a fortnight. United States air force aircraft has joined Italian planes and helicopters in rescue missions.

The United States air force in Wiesbaden, West Germany, announced it was airlifting 450,000 pounds weight of supplies to stricken villages in Italy and more than 100,000 pounds to Greece.

DANUBE FROZEN
More than 20 "flying boxcars" from American bases in Druux and Eyroux (France), Athens, North Africa and West Germany are taking part.

Frozen seas and rivers have held up shipping and road and rail traffic is seriously disrupted.

Each ice, 20 feet high, has completely suspended navigation on the Danube in Upper Austria and all available ice-breakers are working a 24-hour day. Budapest newspaper reports reaching Vienna said the Danube in Hungary was frozen in solid sheet of ice.

Both the Italian and Austrian authorities are worried over the danger of floods when a thaw comes—Reuter.

TRADE GAP

WIDENS

London, Feb. 13.
Provisional figures issued today by the Board of Trade show that the United Kingdom trade gap in January widened to £742 million compared with December's official adverse balance of £715 million.

January figures (to the nearest decimal place) were: Imports £340.3 million, exports £269 million and re-exports £142 million.

United Kingdom exports in January to the United States were provisionally estimated at £10 million and to Canada at £10.1 million—Reuter.

Troops Fire On

Rioters

Limassol, Cyprus, Feb. 13.
One Cypriot Greek villager was killed and a Cypriot Greek woman injured when troops opened fire on a riotous crowd today at Kolossi, a village six miles west of Limassol, it was officially announced.

According to first reports reaching here, the British troops had gone to remove a Greek flag in the village when they were heavily stoned.

They withdrew and returned with reinforcements.

When the crowd became violent the troops fired, killing a Cypriot Greek man. A woman was injured.

Barrage Of Stones
Today's battle was the aftermath of an incident on Friday when Cypriot Greek women fought hand-to-hand with stones against British troops while village men stayed out of sight.

In the new clash today, men joined the women who remained in the forefront of the attack.

The soldiers came under a furious barrage of stones when they tried to lower the flag and when the mob failed to disperse, they opened fire—Reuter.

To Take Up Subject

London, Feb. 13.

The London Times reports that a thorough review of the embargoes on trade with China by the consultative group in Paris is expected in the future.

The paper recalls that this group on which Japan and all the NATO countries except Iceland have representatives, meets from time to time to co-ordinate the controls on East-West trade.

"The coming meeting," writes the Times, "will be a direct result of the recent Washington talks at which the British view was put forward that restrictions on trade with China should be on the same basis as those on trade with the Soviet bloc and that the two should gradually be brought into line."

The American government still seems unwilling to make any significant concessions in trade with China, but it is clear that the United Kingdom as well as other European countries are determined to lift some of the restrictions.

The Times adds, "In short, the British and American governments have agreed to differ. Officials examined the restrictions on China trade in some detail during the Washington talks and this review is still proceeding."

"As in the past, an agreement between the two governments will possibly be reached before the consultative group meets in Paris."

Both the French and German governments are said to have pressed for some relaxation in recent months, and Japan has also asked for the removal of 10 items from the restricted list.

MAIN PRESSURE

"The main pressure for a change in the embargo seems to have come from businessmen. Several British firms with orders from China for goods, which they could freely ship to the Soviet bloc, have been refused licenses for export to China."

"Since China can get the goods quite legitimately from the Soviet bloc, the logic of having two different embargoes, one for the Soviet bloc and another for China, has been questioned."

"There is now little doubt that in the long run, the British Government would prefer to have one embargo list for all the Communist countries."

HONGKONG TRADE

The Times adds, "The possibility of changes in the China embargo has raised hopes in the city of a revival of trade through Hongkong and of rubber shipments from Malaya to China."

"Hongkong, in particular, has felt the draught of the embargo during the past five years. While in 1951, it handled engineering goods worth £27,000,000, rubber worth £220,000,000 and other goods worth £80,000,000 for the China market, the total shipments from Hongkong to China last year were barely £11,000,000 or little more than 10 per cent of the 1951 level."

The Times goes on: "Views about the potentialities of the Chinese market differ widely. In some industrial quarters, it is believed that 1956 may be the critical year for placing of contracts in connection with China's Second Five Year Plan, which starts early next year."

"An easing of the trade restrictions, it is said, would encourage China to place large orders in this country and other European countries and thus weaken her dependence on the Soviet Union."

CHINA'S FINANCES

"The assumption, however, is that China can adequately finance imports. This has still to be tested. Sales of Chinese products to this country have remained comparatively low and have not been sufficient to support a sharp increase in the sterling area purchases of their goods."

Narrow Escape For Stevenson

New York, Feb. 13.
Mr. Adlai Stevenson, who is campaigning for the democratic presidential nomination, escaped injury when a snow tractor in which he was travelling plunged 35 feet into a snow canyon near Timberline Lodge, Oregon, today.

With his five companions, Mr. Stevenson scrambled out and walked back to the lodge where he is writing speeches.

He said afterwards that he once crashed in a helicopter in the Malayan jungle—Reuter.

Malta Referendum

MINTOFF

WINNING

Valetta, Feb. 13.
Half the votes counted in Malta's weekend referendum showed 33,396 in favour of closer political and economic ties with Britain compared with 10,517 against.

The final result is expected in the early hours of tomorrow.

Mr. Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister, polled approximately 33,396 votes, with 10,517 against. It is estimated that the final government vote will be about 60,500 of the 90,342 votes cast.—Reuter.



Woman's Revelations Under Lie Detector

Detroit, Feb. 13.

An Iraqi immigrant said during a lie test today that she and her young lover planned the murder of her husband a month before the crime was committed.

Mrs. Victoria Halsha, 23, made the statement shortly after she began a lie test to confirm her story of the slaying of her husband.

She at first told police a "dark-skinned burglar" killed her husband and raped her before fleeing. But, when confronted with evidence which contradicted her story, she accused Maurice Hamilton, 20, another recent immigrant, of the slaying.

From the time she implicated Hamilton, until her lie test, Mrs. Halsha had claimed the first she knew about the murder of her husband was when Hamilton walked from her husband's bedroom with a bloody knife in his hand.

Shortly after the test began, however, the comely housewife said she and Hamilton had planned the murder more than a month ago.

Police said Hamilton would undergo a lie test after Mrs. Halsha's test was completed. They said the tests were "very difficult" to administer because both Mrs. Halsha and Hamilton speak Chaldean, an ancient language, and an interpreter had to be used. Hamilton is the son of a wealthy Scottish engineer and an Iraqi mother.

The Russians Lied About Burgess And Maclean

London, Feb. 13.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, the British Foreign Secretary told the House of Commons today that the Burgess and Maclean affairs brought into clear relief the lack of candour of the Soviet authorities in their statements about these men.

Referring to the disavowals by Soviet statesmen of any knowledge of the missing British diplomats, who reappeared in Moscow on Saturday, the Foreign Secretary said: "This kind of conduct shows you how difficult it is to establish the relations of mutual trust which the Soviet Union professes to seek."

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd said that the statement made by Burgess and Maclean (to British and Russian correspondents) was designed "to be used for propaganda purposes."

He declared: "No credence can be placed in their words."

On speculation that the re-appearance and statement of the former British foreign office men was aimed at driving a wedge between Britain and America, Mr. Lloyd said: "If this is the explanation, they will not succeed."

NOT WITH M15

A Labour member, Mr. Percy Daines, asked the Foreign Secretary whether Burgess' claim (in the statement) to have served in the British secret service and military intelligence was true.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd said: "It brings out in clear relief the constant lack of candour of the Soviet authorities in their statements about these men."

TOKYO SHAKEN BY TREMORS

Tokyo, Feb. 14.
A series of sharp earthquakes shook Tokyo today, sending buildings reeling and shaking windows for about 30 seconds.

The tremors were felt at about 9.53 a.m.

There were no immediate reports of damage, however, although one observer shouted, "It's the worst quake I've felt in years."

A whole city appeared to shake and sway as it tilted on end.—United Press.

Taking advantage of Government's relaxation of travel restrictions between Hongkong and Kwangtung during the new year holidays, hundreds of people queued up for trains to the border over the weekend. This picture, by a staff photographer, shows a section of the waiting travellers at the KCR yesterday morning.

COLD AND DRIZZLY

Holiday makers yesterday shivered under typical Chinese New Year weather conditions, as the thermometer hit a minimum of 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

The thermometer at 9 o'clock this morning was 34.9 degrees. At 1 a.m. it was at 33.3.

There was light but steady rain during the night. From midnight to 9 a.m. today approximately 0.41 inches of rain fell.

Today's forecast indicates an overcast sky with mist and periods of light rain.

FISHERMEN'S STRANGE CATCH

Imperia, Feb. 13.
Several fishing smacks from the little port of Imperia on the Italian Riviera returned home today with a "catch" of thrushes and blackbirds instead of fish.

The fishermen said they were right out to sea and just about to cast their nets when a snow storm overtook them.

Suddenly, out of the whirling snowflakes appeared huge flocks of half-frozen birds which dropped down in hundreds in the boats on the sea, where they were drowned.

Most of the birds had revived by the time they reached land, and few or none of them were captured and sold for roasting.—France Press.

Indonesia Abrogates Agreement

ACTION AGAINST HOLLAND

The Hague, Feb. 13.

Indonesia tonight abrogated the Dutch-Indonesian Union unilaterally, as from today, according to Djakarta messages reaching here.

The announcement was made after an Indonesian Cabinet session to consider the failure of the Dutch-Indonesian conference in Geneva on Saturday.

The Indonesian government "will consider similar measures regarding the other agreements reached with the Netherlands during the round table conference in The Hague in 1949, mainly in the financial and economic fields," the Information Minister, Sjaumuddin Sutan Makmur said.

According to the reports the Minister said the abrogation of the union established in 1949 when Holland transferred sovereignty to Indonesia was "only the first step."

The government and the government parties would discuss the other measures against Holland on Tuesday night, he said.

BREAKS DOWN

The Indonesian government would give a statement to parliament on its decisions as soon as possible after the return of the Indonesian delegation from Geneva.

The Geneva conference, originally called on December 10 to improve relations between the two countries, broke down on Saturday after the delegates failed to agree on an arrangement for the settlement of disputes arising from the execution of the financial-economic agreements.

Tonight's move comes after Djakarta reports today that the Indonesian political parties had been demanding the cancellation of the agreements with the Dutch.—Hawker.

Wedding Night Tragedy

Rome, Feb. 13.

Bruno Ronchi, aged 40, of Treviglio, North Italy, died of a heart attack on his wedding night, after a 15-year engagement to his bride, 35-year-old Lucia Villa, according to reports reaching here today.

The couple, who were on their way to a Copri honeymoon, spent their wedding night with relatives at Sesto San Giovanni. When they retired after a copious meal, there was no sign that Bruno was ill, the reports said, but died before their hosts, summoned by his wife's cries, could reach their room.

Bruno and Lucia had long postponed their marriage for financial reasons.—France Press.

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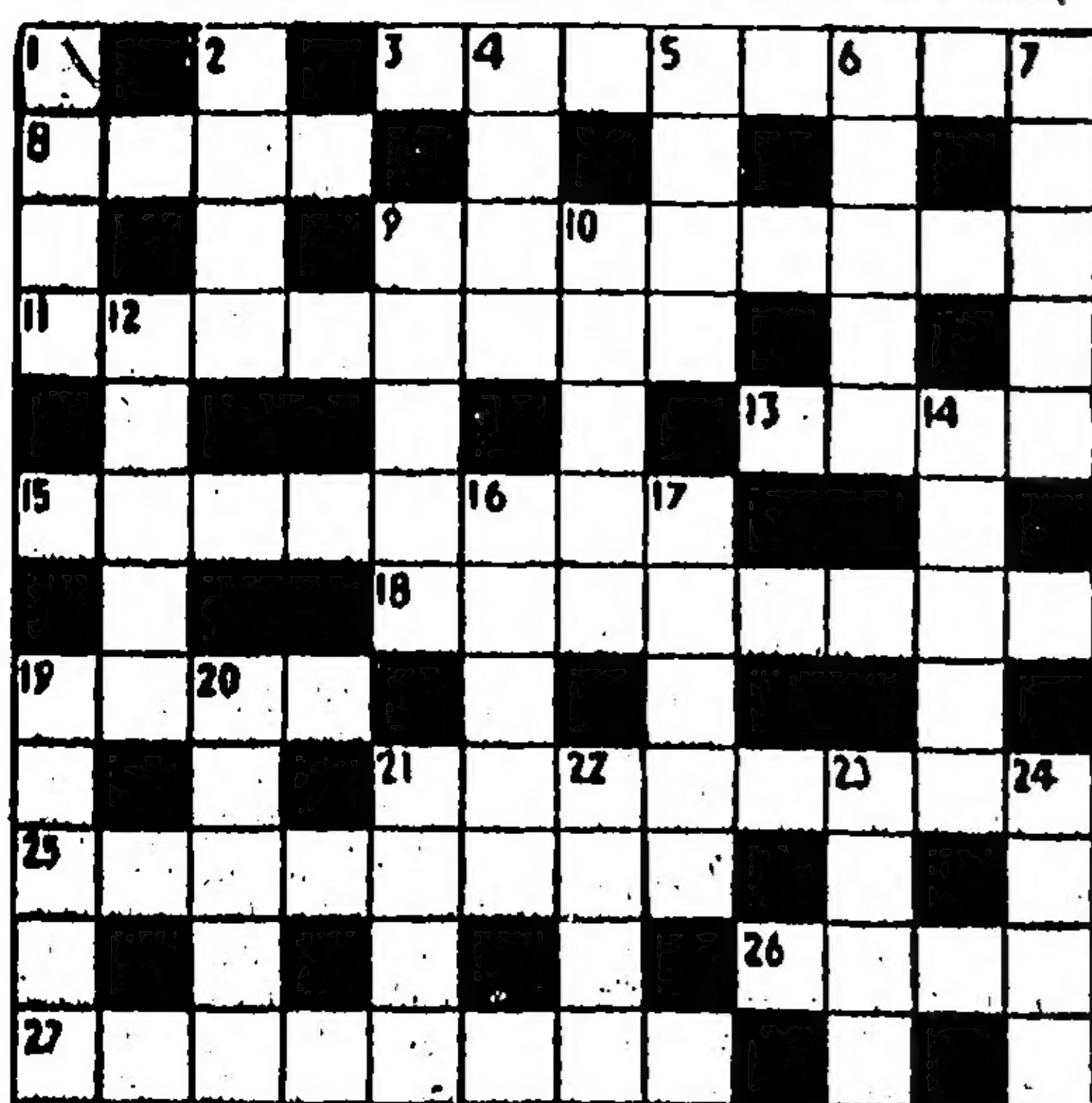
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- ACROSS
- Helped (8).
 - Before long (4).
 - Said again (8).
 - Likened (8).
 - At one time (4).
 - Don (8).
 - Tender (8).
 - Snakes (4).
 - Concerning soldiers (8).
 - Kept (8).
 - Rank (4).
 - Cowboy films (8).
- DOWN
- Transparent mineral (4).
 - Apartment (4).
 - Prophet (4).
 - Frozen (4).
 - Giant (8).
 - Trick (5).
 - Mad (8).
 - Danger (8).
 - Monsters (8).
 - Provide for (8).
 - Combination (8).
 - Fearful (8).
 - Mistake (8).
 - Routes (8).
 - Distance (4).
 - Spore (4).
 - Ceases (4).
 - Tale (4).

SATURDAY'S CROSSWORD—Across: 1. Remind, 4. Males, 7. Profound, 8. Elders, 9. Laurel, 11. Estates, 13. Enclosed, 15. Violet, 18. Raved, 19. Enriched, 20. Easel, 21. Larder, Down: 1. Reel, 2. Infer, 3. Doubled, 4. Modern, 5. Immortal, 6. Street, 10. Uncovered, 12. Several, 14. Bludge, 16. Ordeal, 17. Occur, 19. Dudes.

Mystery Men Appear

BUT DEPART LEAVING
MANY QUESTIONS
WITHOUT ANSWERS

By Sidney Weiland

Moscow, Feb. 12.

Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean were still "mystery men" today—despite their dramatic reappearance here yesterday after five years silence.

Their five-minute, carefully conducted interview with myself and another British correspondent and two Soviet reporters in a room at Moscow's National Hotel served only to confirm the widespread belief that they were in the Soviet Union.

The two British diplomats, both in the prepared statement they issued and in a few remarks they made to us, left many questions unanswered.

They declined to say whether they were working for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, and their statement carefully avoided giving any clue to their present work.

Brief Encounter

The appearance of the two former diplomats last night for five minutes was almost unreal.

It was over almost as soon as the two British correspondents realised what had happened, and Burgess and Maclean walked away before the correspondents could pause to read the statement they handed out.

This brief encounter with Burgess and Maclean had all the makings of high drama. It was obvious that their appearance had been carefully staged in order that British correspondents might see them "in the flesh."

This would be a precaution on the part of the Soviet authorities who would know that the authenticity of any statement attributed to the two diplomats, which might be published in the Soviet press without physical appearance, would be challenged in the West.

This occurred when a statement by Dr Bruno Pontecorvo, naturalised British atomic scientist who appeared in Moscow last March after a five-year absence, was published in the Soviet Communist Party newspaper, Pravda, and was followed four days later by press conference at which the scientist answered questions.

Soviet Censorship

Though there were a number of similarities between the cases of Dr Pontecorvo and the diplomat, the major difference is that Pontecorvo was free to answer questions. He admitted freely that he was working in the atomic field in the Soviet Union, including the name of the actual institute where he was employed.

He also told correspondents he had taken out Soviet citizenship. Though Pontecorvo was much more nervous than Burgess appeared to be last night, he seemed almost anxious to answer questions.

When it was eventually decided that the diplomats would answer from their five-year silence only four reporters were chosen to meet them. Two of them were Russians who did not attempt to ask any questions.

It appeared that either Burgess and Maclean or the Soviet authorities who presumably staged the interview, deliberately avoided calling a larger press conference which would have been more difficult to control, and where a large number of embarrassing questions would have been inevitable.

The setting chosen for the diplomats' reappearance was perfect in the sense that they completely controlled the interview and avoided answering almost all questions, and so refused to be drawn that the two British correspondents had no alternative but to leave when the diplomats rose, shook hands, put on their coats and walked out.

Vanished

They vanished as suddenly as they had come and said nothing to dispel the mystery which has surrounded their names for five years and which continues, except that they have been physically seen and have confirmed that they are in the Soviet Union.

The dramatic circumstances of the diplomats' reappearance—their statement was published in all Soviet newspapers today without comment and without any mention of the remarks exchanged between them and the British reporters—has taken the place of the forthcoming Communist Party Congress as the high-point of speculation in the diplomatic scene.

The general view is that the decision to "produce" the diplomats was taken at the highest level, probably by Mr Nikita Khrushchev, the Communist Party Secretary, with an eye on removing outstanding issues between the Soviet Union and Britain before the visit to London of Mr Khrushchev and Marshal Nikolai Bulganin, the Soviet Premier, in April.

Diplomats here said this was indicated by the opening of the Burgess-Maclean statement in which they claimed that doubts about their whereabouts and speculation on their past actions might be a factor "that has been and may again be exploited by the opponents of Anglo-Soviet understanding."

Some Doubts

In this connection, the stress laid by the diplomats in their statement on denying they had ever been Communist agents was also noted.

Publication of the statement at this time might also have been intended to serve some purpose for internal consumption within the Soviet Union in suggesting there were doubts and apprehensions even in the British Foreign Office about American policy—an allegation frequently made by the Soviet press.

The statement's publication also serves to foster India that the Soviet Union is genuinely interested in the "Geneva spirit" and lessening tension, while the United States is not.

The main question left unanswered by the diplomats' statement and interview is what they are now doing.

Though they walked away from the National Hotel last night with apparent freedom and without any sign that they were being "tailed", the degree of movement they have is still unknown.

Until now obviously the greatest care has been taken in order that they should not appear in public and run the risk of recognition by diplomats and other foreigners in Moscow theatres and restaurants.

No Other Claims

Mrs Charles Bohlen, wife of the American Ambassador, however, thought she recognised Burgess and Maclean in the Bolshoi Theatre last summer, but could not be sure.

Certainly no other claims of recognition have been made since the men disappeared from Britain in 1951. If the diplomats have been living in the Soviet Union since that time as they claim, and are now living in Moscow it is believed they must live an almost cloistered life, probably cut off from normal life in the city.

It is to be seen whether they will now feel able to move about more freely, although this is generally considered unlikely because of the risk of recognition and possibly of embarrassing encounters with other foreigners.

Diplomats in Moscow believe that though Burgess and Maclean may have acted in an advisory capacity to the Soviet Foreign Ministry on Anglo-American affairs for a time after their arrival in Russia, their usefulness probably ended soon afterwards.

It is also believed that they were subsequently employed in one of the numerous press and propaganda fields operated by the Soviet Government in the English language.

Radio Advisers?

They might be advisers to Moscow radio in the preparation of programmes beamed to Britain, the United States and other English-speaking countries, or they might be employed on English language magazines.

Several British "defectors" who were the British embassy staff in the early post-war years, are known to work on these publications.—China Mail Special.

WORLD NEWS REVIEW
ATTLEE INJURED
IN CAR CRASH

During Chinese New Year there were many world developments and announcements. The following is a United Press review.

LONDON.—Former British labour leader Earl Attlee suffered rib injuries in a car accident on ice-slicked roads on Saturday night. His wife said that she believed the ribs were only bruised and not cracked. The veteran statesman's wife received a slight head injury herself when the Attlee car slid across an icy road into a ditch.

IBADAN, NIGERIA.—It was a quiet Sunday for Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh in their visit to this British colony. But top Nigerian ministers shattered the day's calm with an official blast against British newsmen covering the tour.

The West Nigeria Minister of Justice called the coverage of the tour "strange, scandalous and gruesome."

LONDON.—Prince Charles and Princess Anne will accompany the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on the Royal Family's tour of Sweden in June, it was reported. It would be the first state visit made by the youngsters.

SINGAPORE.—The official organ of the University of Malaya's socialist club Fejar accused Australia on Sunday of conducting "economic aggression" in Malaya. The student organ charged the Singapore and Malayan governments of being "weak-kneed" and "helplessly allowing a certain section of Malayan importers to be subjected to the dictates of Canberra."

The group specifically charged that "the spirit of healthy competition has gone" as the result of Australia's setting up a panel of 13 importers in Malaya and the subsequent exclusion from the apple and pear trade of several traders who had built up the trade for Australia.

LONDON.—Peter Townsend got married yesterday—but not the one you know. Townsend, a 25-year-old advertising copy writer, married actress Elizabeth Seal.

PNOM PENH, CAMBODIA.—Cambodian officials say that the forthcoming visit of Prince Norodom Sihanouk to China does not imply diplomatic recognition of the Peking regime. Officials said that Cambodia would maintain its neutrality.

TOKYO.—The unheard of happened here on Sunday. A member of the Diet commented on the question of a bride for 20-year-old Crown Prince Akihito. Liberal Yoshiko Kikuchi recommended to the Diet that the Imperial Household be advised against an early marriage for the Prince. Reporters say that never in history has the marital situation of a member of the Royal family been commented on in public by a Diet member.

TUSCALOOSA.—Eighty per cent of the University of

Alabama student body is reported to have pledged a "no violence" policy if negro coed Autherine Lucy returns to classes. The girl was suspended last week after rioters tried to seize her. A Federal court will hold a hearing on February 29 to decide whether the university is compelled by law to reinstate Miss Lucy.

WASHINGTON.—US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles is off on an 11-day vacation in the Caribbean. When he gets back, Dulles will leave on March 2 on a three-week tour of the Far East.

WASHINGTON.—US Air Force Secretary Donald Quarles categorically denied on Saturday Russia's charge that Air Force research balloons are being used for espionage behind the Iron Curtain. He said in a statement that the balloons were being used solely for weather research, the results of which would benefit all mankind.

OTTAWA.—Member of Parliament Gordon Churchill says that Canada's arms shipments policy can only result "in fanning the embers of war" in the Middle East.

HAKODATE.—Japanese fisheries firms here intend to continue preparations to send 19 fishing fleets, comprising 500 vessels to the Northern Pacific in May despite reported Soviet government orders to stop them from catching salmon off the Pacific coast of Russia. Officials said they thought some agreement would be reached before hand in the Soviet-Japanese talks in London.

RABAT.—France's direct administration of Morocco has ended. Premier St. Beakair and Resident-General Andre-Louis Dubois signed an accord in Rabat on Saturday, thus pushing Morocco nearer to independence.

LONDON.—The P & O liner Carthage which was due at Tilbury tonight from Hongkong, has been delayed by bad weather. The ship now is expected to dock no earlier than Monday morning.—United Press.

Greyhound
Wins Crufts

London, Feb. 11.
A greyhound was tonight voted top exhibit at this year's Crufts show, Britain's premier dog show.
The dog—named "Goose"—is owned by Mr W. de Cassenbroek and Miss H. G. Gifford, of Gifford, in Surrey, and it is the first time for at least 30 years that a greyhound has won the prize.
It was the 20-month-old greyhound's first appearance at Crufts.—China Mail Special.

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PRESS
PHOTOGRAPHS

Copies of photography taken by the South China Morning Post, South China Sunday Post, Herald, and China Mail Staff Photographers are on view in the Morning Post Building.

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It's just a trick, says the Judo Debutante

... AS SHE THROWS

A POLICEMAN OVER

HER SHOULDER

London. In a room above King's Cross Station two of last year's debutantes wrestled on the floor. Watching them were three detective constables, two police officers, one police cadet, and one woman constable. "That'll do," said the woman Caroline Hawke — her father is Chief Government Whip in the Upper House and Lord-in-Waiting

into the fire. "You've got to see it to understand it." The unbeliever promised to try to understand. "There's the sheer exuberance of it," Diana went on. "Two minds are working against each other. You've always got to be a move ahead."

"Like chess?" "Well, yes. While you're doing it you're terribly happy. There's always

The belts, first of the judo honours, were newly won. And it is only three months since the girls started coming to the weekly evening class held by the British Transport Police.

"We adore judo," said Diana, her face flushed with exertion and excitement. Caroline nodded, too breathless to speak.

Before the class, we had sat peacefully in Diana's Chelsea home and heard Caroline tell how their judo training had started. "Mummy was worried about my coming home in the dark —

blue belt — two from the top — after five nights' practice a week for 14 months. "When you think, Diana, that we got our white belt after three months and those Cambridge men look fifteen. It's disgusting," murmured Caroline.

Talk was on the level of the mystic. "Do you remember," said Diana, "when I was thrown fifty times in three minutes?"

"What throws? O-goshi?" asked Caroline. "No. Tai-ooshi," replied Diana.

Again the uninitiated tried to understand how throwing your neighbour promotes a balanced personality, gives moral courage, as judo-enthusiasts claim.

"You're muddling this with jiu-jitsu," said Miss Curry. "That's really savage. Judo is more graceful. It's slower. It's got rules."

"No squeezing of heads. No gouging of eyes," chorused the girls.

Still sceptical, I stood by the gasfire in the police club-room and waited for the gladiators to



YOU MUST ALWAYS BE ONE MOVE AHEAD . . .



JUDO IS A GENTLE ART (at least, at the start)

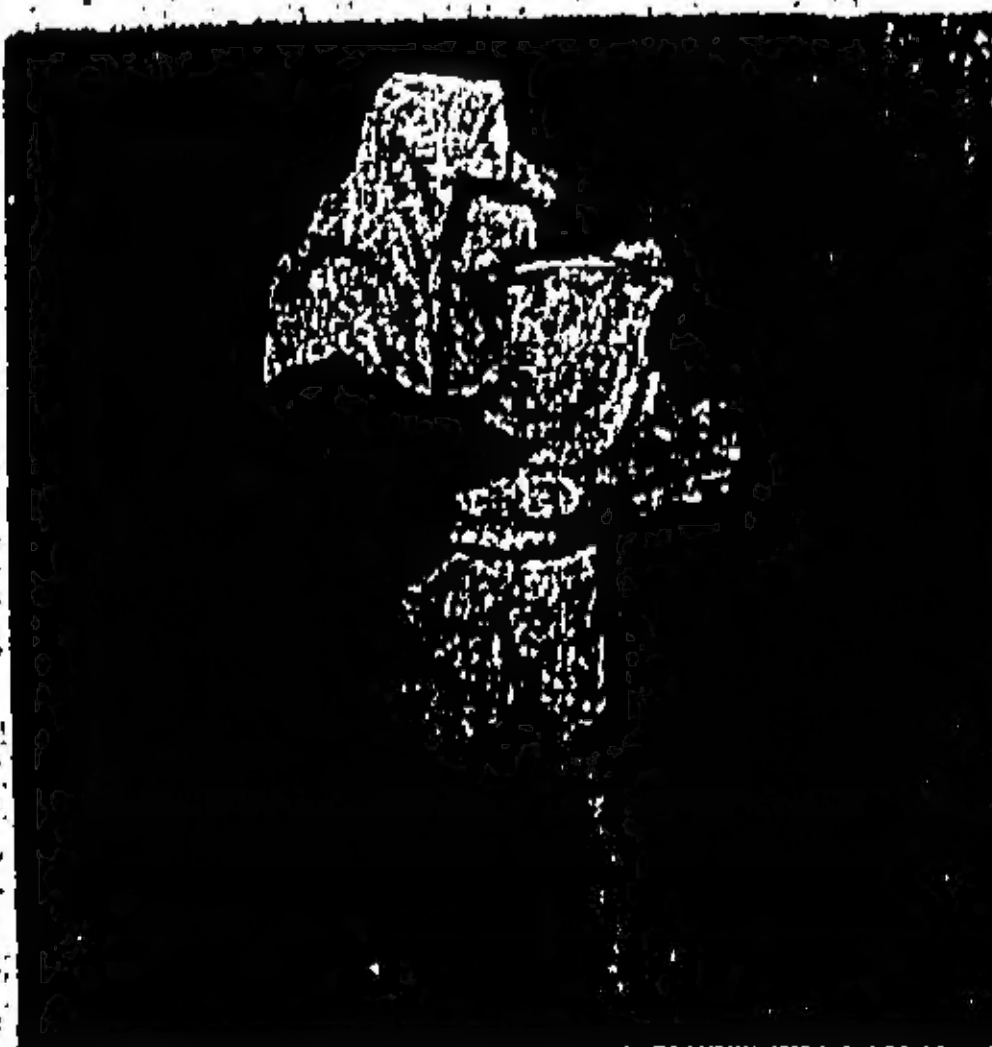


Caroline Hawke puts Detective Constable Clancy on the mat.



BUT YOU FEEL HAPPY WHILE YOU'RE DOING IT . . .

... OR ELSE YOU FIND YOU'RE ONE MOVE BEHIND



our home in Sussex is about half a mile from the station. One day when she was getting off the train at Victoria she saw a woman police constable. She thought she looked nice, so she asked her if women police learned self-defence.

Quite a coincidence that the policewoman in question was Elizabeth Curry, the only woman judo instructor in the whole of Britain's police force.

Now Caroline, whose family motto is "Strike," comes up from Sussex every week and takes Diana with her to hurl and be hurled on the police club floor.

Though Caroline is reading for the Bar, and Diana is busy with a secretarial course and Russian lessons, their week revolves round the few hours when sweaters and skirts are exchanged for the loose white clothes of the game.

Game? "It's a religion," said Diana firmly, staring

enter. Six hefty policemen came tumbling in, handspringing on to the mat and landing with resounding thaps as their arms worked as shock-absorbers.

Miss Curry took the class through their exercises. It might have been a meeting of the League of Health and Beauty.

Then came the contests. Silently competitors bowed to each other frog-fashion from each end of the mat. Then they got up, ambled casually across to the middle, gripped each other's collars and began a slow dance, bare feet skating over the mat, eyes grimly watching every move of the other's legs.

"As Caroline twisted to throw Detective-constable Clancy, ex-Arnhem commando," and a 16-stone master of unarmed combat, another constable smiled appreciatively. "Good thing for women, this. Gives them a confident aggressiveness. It must be controlled, I think, but men have had the field too long."

Will this thing that every girl should know now become part of a debutante's basic training? "The debutantes? They'll never pick it up," said Caroline and Diana, with some superiority and went on teasing policemen on to the mat.

IN SYRIA Smuggling Is Big Business

By CHARLES ANDERSON

Damascus. I HAVE just returned from the semi-illegal business of smuggling caterpillars into Syria. By caterpillars I don't mean the furry type but ugly, yellow mechanical monsters highly prized by Syrian farmers. These caterpillars, or agricultural tractors, are supplied in large numbers to Turkish farmers under the "Point Four" programme, but — and enter the smuggling temptation — are rare and expensive in Syria.

Each caterpillar costs approximately 8,000 Turkish lira (\$1,000) on a long-term repayment plan. Simple plan. Except that the Turkish farmer doesn't wait that long. After using the caterpillar for a few days he passes it on by devious but highly efficient means to a dealer on the Syrian frontier for 10,000 lira or approximately £250 profit per tractor. The Turkish farmer then makes the official repayments on a tractor he doesn't possess any longer — and pockets the £250. Which is where I started my real investigations into this neat little border racket.

HIS PROFIT

Knowing something of Arab mentality I was convinced that Syrian would present his Turkish neighbour with a gift of £250 for nothing. And how right I was.

Legally the Syrian dealer can buy all the Turkish money he wishes on the "free market" in Aleppo, so that the 10,000 lira paid to the farmer would cost him 3,000 Syrian pounds (£300). With tractors so highly prized in his own country his next step is simple. He resells for £500, thus netting himself a profit of at least £100 on each machine, after clearing all expenses.

It seemed that everybody was happy — except of course the Turkish Government. Just how strongly the Turkish Government objects to the whole caterpillar smuggling business is evident from the fact that, in order to discourage this sort of "trading," the Turks have mined large sectors of the Syro-Turkish frontier.

No Arab, however, thinks twice about risking a few minefields and, without losing face, it was difficult to refuse when Abdullah El-Hazim, a well-known Aleppo "dealer" ("smuggler" in plain English), suggested accompanying him on one of his trading missions.

SAFETY PATH

Our journey from Aleppo to Kilis — few miles across the frontier — in a ten-year-old jeep, on a cold, wet January day, was uneventful. Abdullah was well-known at the frontier post and we passed through with diplomatic expediency, clattering and banging over the rocky road to the picturesque but dirty town of Kilis.

After leaving me at the one hotel, Abdullah disappeared with the jeep. It was seven days before he returned, with the news that he had bought three caterpillars, and we should be leaving for Azaz (home again in Syria) in two hours.

As we sat over our meal of lamb shanks and laban (fried mutton and yoghurt), I ventured an inquiry about the mines. Abdullah was obviously shocked at my distrust of his operational ability.

"Mines all fixed." This assurance was followed by the explanation that the land was organised a taped safety path through the minefields. We had only to follow the tape with our three caterpillars lurching along behind us and the operation would be over.

RENDEZVOUS

Abdullah also told me that the Turkish patrol, for that night would be some miles to the eastward. I sincerely hoped he knew, for Turkish patrols invariably shoot on sight and ask questions afterwards. As we left the little restaurant, we found the night clear and starry, with a bitterly cold wind blowing down from the Caucasus. We clambered into the jeep and clanged and clanked along the stony road to our rendezvous.

Outside a dilapidated farmhouse we found the three caterpillars, each attached to a pair of buffaloes. "Buffalo, he makes no noise," explained Abdullah. And so we set off. Abdullah giving instructions to a team of six "helpers" who had suddenly appeared, and himself picking up the white thread which had been laid earlier that evening.

On the soft ploughed earth the revolving caterpillar tracks made no noise, and our strange conveyance moved slowly towards the frontier. Almost at the last moment, through a flurry of snowflakes, the winding road to Syria, and breathed a sigh of relief.

(Continued on Page 1, Col. 1)

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m.s. "HENRIK"	18th "Kaoohung"
m.s. "HAI HING"	23rd "Japan"
m.s. "THORSTRAND"	23rd "Penang"

SAILINGS

m.s. "HENRIK"	15th Feb. for Kaoohung
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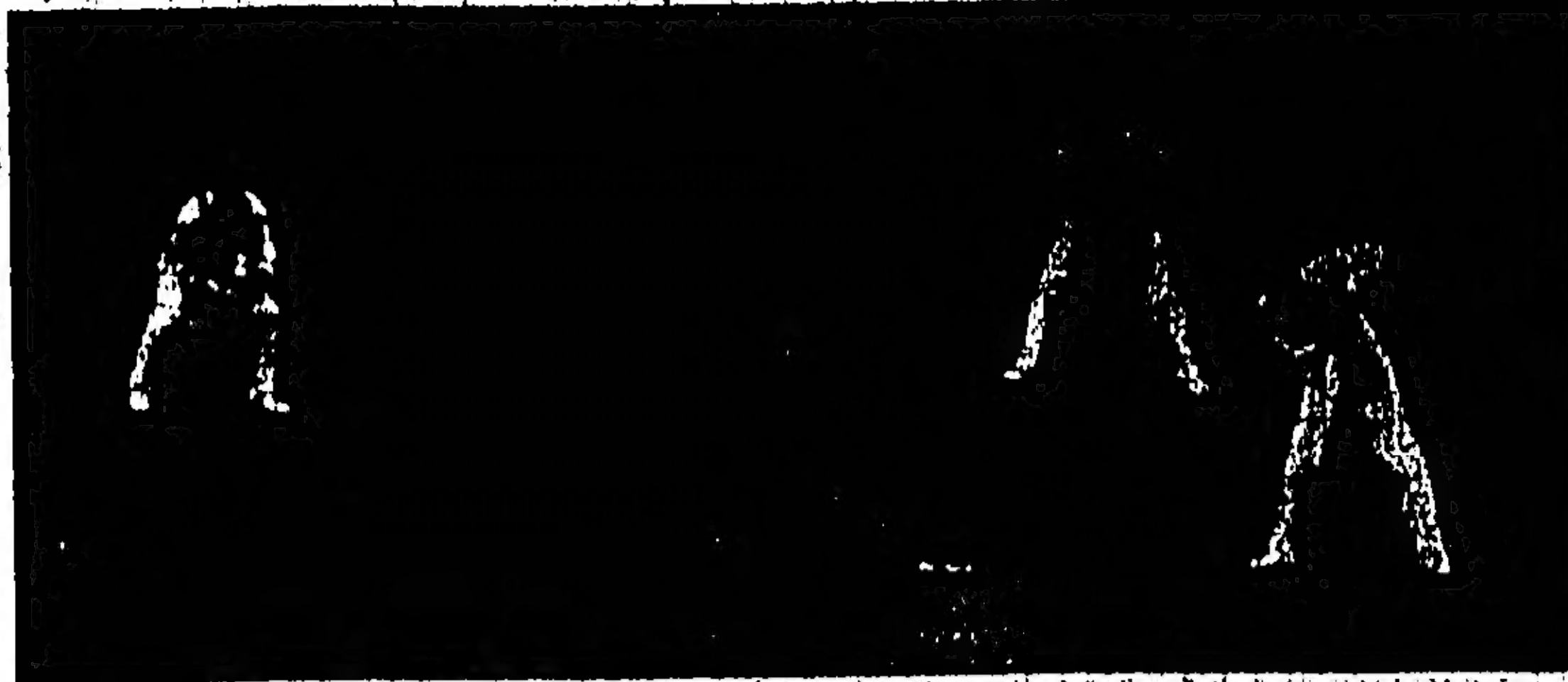
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CAUGHT IN THE SLIPS



Lieut. Bedson of Army South, who opened the first innings of the Island XI against the Mainland yesterday at the Hongkong Cricket Club, was caught in the slips off this stroke. The action picture was taken by a staff photographer.

HOME SOCCER REVIEW

CHARLTON SURPRISE WITH A 5-1 VICTORY OVER WEST BROMWICH ALBION

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Watch out, Arsenal. Bobby Ayre is back to form. That warning was taken back to Highbury tonight by Leslie Compton who spent the afternoon sizing up Charlton, Arsenal's opponents in the Cup next week. That was about the only impression Compton could have had. For weather conditions which turned Charlton's Valley into something more like an ice rink than a football pitch made it impossible to assess form.

My because England team manager Walter Winterbottom—another interested spectator—might have gained a few facts worth noting in his little black book otherwise.

But back to Ayre. The little inside-right and former young England centre-forward led Charlton back to the victory trail—their first since late December. Albion led by Nicholson's goal at the interval. Two goals by Ayre and Kierman—Ryan goals both made by Ayre—made it 4-1. Buck Ryan hit the fifth. Stars of this smash hit shock win were centre-half Hewie and his fellow South African Syd Olin at right-half. Frank Reed, twenty-two-year-old goalkeeper making his League debut in place of the

jured Sam Bartram, didn't put a foot—or a hand—wrong. BIGGER SURPRISE. Bigger surprise of the day was Manchester United's two-nil win over Luton—and at Luton too. United were without right-back Foulkes and wing-halves Colman and Edwards—on Army football duty. But Violet and Whelan goals for each half—kept Manchester on top of Division One. Blackburn went down to a Ford goal at Cardiff but retain second spot. Wolves move up into third position as a result of a 4-2 win over Bolton.

Poor Joe Dean, the 18-year-old youth goalkeeper was making his League debut for Bolton. He gave Wolves their first goal when he punched a Hancock corner into his own net. But reports indicate how well he made up for that error later on.

It seems the ice suited more sides than Charlton. Huddersfield skated to a two-one victory at Preston where bustling Dave Hickson got both Huddersfield goals. But it was not enough to

lift Huddersfield from bottom position in the table. A 4-1 home win over Hull City keeps Sheffield Wednesday on top of Division Two and their visitors at the bottom. Swans are in second place two points behind Wednesday as a result of their away 2-2 draw with Leeds.

Next come Bristol City, Bristol Rovers and Leicester, all level with 34 points. A shock 1-0 defeat for Ipswich at Crystal Palace may mean no promotion for Alf Ramsey's boys. For Leyton Orient, by way of saying thanks to Ex-Manager Alec Shock, beat Reading at home and are only a point behind leaders Ipswich with two games in hand. Brighton, who are up to date with their fixtures, gained both points in their home match with Shrewsbury and are in third spot.

In the Third Division North Accrington suffered a setback on their own ground where Grimsby won by the only goal of the match. But Accrington are still in front with Southport, who beat Chesterfield, behind on goal average. Derby County and Grimsby are one point behind and Hartlepool, beaten five to one at Scunthorpe today, one point behind them.

A Record For HMS Dampier

A record set by Mr Eric Moller the Sunday before last stood for exactly a week, an excited voice told the sports editor of the China Mail early yesterday morning.

A bigger tuna mackerel has been caught in Lemna Channel. This 140-lb. monster is now on ice somewhere behind the gates that admit one on to the lower deck of the concrete ship HMS Torstar.

According to latest reports, it may even be eaten. This sizable fish, though having more body weight, was apparently not quite in the same physical trim as was Mr Moller's tuna mackerel. It took 45 minutes to haul in, but two heavy stokers by the name of Mc-Lemman and Wells helped it into the boat.

Men behind the line was SPO Bruce Block of HMS Dampier, better known as a fair darts player, an indifferent snooker player and a very patient top recorder behind Hongkong's first world record.

The record-breaking crew were all from HMS Dampier, under command of Commodore H. Bontswain Mantle.

Parry O'Brien Sets New World Shot Put Mark

New York, Feb. 12. Parry O'Brien, American holder of the world indoor and outdoor Shot Put records, set new figures for the indoor event with a throw of 69 feet nine inches at the New York Athletic Club games at Madison Square Garden last night.

His previous indoor record was 68 feet 5 1/2 inches. Charles Jenkins, the coloured runner, beat the world indoor record for 500 yards of 58.6 seconds by clocking 58.4 seconds in the "Buermyer 500".

Ron Delaney, with hope for the Olympic 1,500 Metres this year, became the third overseas runner in 45 years to win the famous Baxter Mile, but his time of 4 mins 14 secs was well outside the record.

The crowd boomed the slow pace at which the race was run.

—Reuter.

Arkinstall Wins Indian Tennis Title

Jaipur, India, Feb. 12. Jack Arkinstall, beat A. D. Marshall in the All-Indian Men's Singles final of the Rajastan State Lawn Tennis Championships here today. Arkinstall won 6-1, 6-4, 1-6, 6-0. In the All-German final of the Women's Singles, Fraulein Totta Zehden beat Frau Inge Volger 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.—Reuter.



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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES
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are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co's godown where it will be at consignees risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and condition of storage, and where delivery may be obtained.

Damaged packages are to be left in the godown for examination by Consignees and the Company's surveyors, Messrs. Carmichael & Clarke at 10 a.m. on the 15th February, 1956.

To comply with the General Bonded Warehouse Regulations, Consignees must have a Revenue Officer in attendance when damaged dutiable goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the steamer's godown, and all goods remaining undelivered after the 15th February, 1956, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Under-Signed on or before the 21st February, 1956 or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO., LTD.
 Agents.
 Hong Kong, 11th February, 1956.

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

It's A Kitchen Space-Saver



A new idea in kitchen furniture — the Fleetway combined table and ironing-board — is inspected by Pat Mainwaring at the British Furniture Exhibition at Earl's Court, London.—Reuterphoto.

More US Firms Build Factories In Scotland

One of the most remarkable developments of post-war industry in Scotland has been the establishment of North American companies there.

The 18 firms which have started production since the war were, up till two years ago, operating two million square feet (185,800 square metres) of factory space. They include such firms as Burroughs Adding Machines, Ltd., National Cash Register Company Ltd., International Business Machines, Ltd., UK Time Ltd, a subsidiary of one of the largest clock and watchmaking organizations in the USA, and several others. Since then these firms have added, or now have under construction, over one million square feet more factory space and their employment roll has risen by over 3,500 to about 13,000.

In the past two years eight more firms with a wide range of production have decided to join their compatriots in Scotland. Among these are the International Latex Corporation and the Sunbeam Electric Company, which when its building plan is completed will be one of the largest of the American companies in Scotland and will be a most important employer of Scottish labour. In Larkhall, its new plant, established in the new town of East Kilbride, will produce a great variety of the Sunbeam Electric products.

Other firms at an earlier stage of development in Scotland, include the Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Company, Ltd. which has taken over a considerable site on the outskirts of Glasgow, the Cleveland Twist Drill Company (GB) Ltd. and Union Carbide Ltd. The Board of Trade in Glasgow and the Scottish Council (Development and Industry) are doing everything possible to help other American companies to take part in the development of industries in Scotland.

are hereby notified that their cargo is being discharged into the Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co's godown where it will be at consignees risk and subject to the Wharf's terms and condition of storage, and where delivery may be obtained.

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No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO., LTD.
 Agents.
 Hong Kong, 12th February, 1956.

MOTOR SCOOTER HAS MANY NEW FEATURES

Designed as a comfortable long-distance two-seat tourer with a high cruising speed and plenty of pulling power for hills, the 1956 model of the Dayton Albatross motor scooter is so stable that a works rider has developed a test-track trick of standing up at 40 miles an hour using both hands to drink a cup of tea.

This British answer to Continental motor scooters has a streamlined pressed steel body with running boards and large leg shields.

Ideal as a runabout, it is powered by a 225 cubic centimetre Villiers two-stroke engine and can cruise all day at 30 miles an hour. Top speed is over 65 miles an hour and fuel consumption is 84 miles per gallon. An unladen weight of 280 lbs. gives the remarkably good power to weight ratio of 12 lbs. per cubic centimetre. The engine, totally enclosed, is cooled by air ducts.

Among the luxuries of the Albatross is a car-type fascia panel complete with speedometer, ammeter, key-operated ignition switch, separate lighting switch and a choke control knob. In front of the panel is a big seven-inch headlamp. Aircraft type Alfin brake drums are a unique fitting and another feature is the luxurious suspension system; there are Earles-type forks in the front and swinging arms at the rear.

Large wheels contribute to the machine's unusually comfortable ride. Split rims and pull-out wheel spindles enable wheels and tyres to be quickly removed from the scooter and also from each other.

Bright new two-tone colour schemes are applied to all Albatrosses, now coming off the production line. They are chrome-yellow and black, maroon and beige and dark and light blue.

The manufacturers, the Dayton Cycle Company Ltd., of Park Royal Road, North Acton, London, NW 10, are geared to a weekly output of 70 machines.

Albatrosses are already in demand overseas. They have been bought by the Australian Government and by buyers in Malta, Sweden, South Africa, Gibraltar and many other countries.

New Torch For Cutting And Gouging

A new tool, the "Arcair," has been developed by the Lincoln Electric Company, Ltd., of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, England, for cutting, gouging and gouging metals at high speeds.

With this torch the metal is melted by an electric arc and blown away by a continuous stream of compressed air.

It operates with a supply of reverse polarity, direct current, from an ordinary welding machine and compressed air from a 90-100 pounds per square inch works supply system.

A special form of copper-coated carbon-graphite electrode, with the torch and the electrodes are available in a variety of sizes ranging from five-thirty seconds to five-eighths of an inch.

Power and air supplies are connected through a concentric cable to the rear of the torch, which incorporates an air control valve.

A self-aligning rotating air jet in the electrode jaw permits adjustment of the electrode to any required angle to suit the work in hand.

When in use the torch is held with the electrode sloping back from the angle of travel and with the stream of air striking the metal being cut or gouged just behind the arc. During cutting the electrode is pushed continuously into the metal, almost touching it, and the air valve lever in the handle is depressed all the time the torch is in use.

Two Models

Sugar Factory For S. America Made In Glasgow

A Glasgow-built sugar factory and refinery has recently been erected in Venezuela and handed over to the operators.

After a period of trials the factory is due to be opened in December.

The factory is at Rio Turbio and it is to process 2,500 tons of white sugar cane per day with a possible extension to 4,000 tons at a later date.

The Scottish contractors, Mirriele Watson Company Ltd., who were also responsible for the design of the plant in the Dominican Republic, St Kitts and Portuguese Africa.

The "Rio Turbio" factory is operated by a turbine-driven tandem, with five turbines each of 500 brake horse power. It is equipped to refine all the sugar by the vegetable carbon process and has a vacuum pan station with five pans.

R.L.

SAILINGS TO: INDONESIA

"KARIE" Feb. 16 Delawah Doll
 "TILUWAI" Feb. 17 Jakarta, Semarang, Surabaya, & Macassar
 "TIWANDOK" Feb. 23 Jakarta, Semarang, Surabaya & Macassar
 "TIWANGOR" Mar. 2 Jakarta, Semarang, Surabaya, & Macassar
 "TIMODAS" Mar. 9 Jakarta, Semarang, Surabaya & Macassar

STRAITS

"TILUWAI" Feb. 11 Singapore
 "TISADANE" Feb. 22 Singapore
 "VAN WAERWICK" Mar. 2 Singapore
 "STRAAT" Mar. 7 Singapore
 "MAKASSAR" Mar. 8 Singapore
 "TILUWAI" Mar. 10 Singapore
 "HOUTMAN" Mar. 22 Singapore

MANILA

"RUYA" Mar. 9 Manila

JAPAN

"STRAAT DALL" Mar. 7 Kobe, Osaka, Nagoya & Yokohama
MAURITIUS, S. AFRICA, S. AMERICA

"TISADANE" Feb. 2 Mauritius, L. Marques, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Capetown, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Montevideo
 "MAKASSAR" Mar. 22
 "TEGELBERG" Mar. 22
 "STRAAT DALL" Apr. 1 not calling MAURITIUS
 "TILUWAI" Apr. 1 not calling MAURITIUS
 "HOUTMAN" Apr. 1 not calling MAURITIUS

SEYCHELLES, BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND BEIRA

"VAN WAERWICK" Mar. 7 Atah, Tanga, Zanzibar, Dar-Es-Salaam & Beira
 "HOUTMAN" Mar. 22 Mahé, Zanzibar, Tanga, Zanzibar, Dar-Es-Salaam & Beira
 "ROGUEVEN" Apr. 8 Mahé, Zanzibar, Tanga, Zanzibar, Dar-Es-Salaam & Beira
 "SCHOUTEN" May 9 Mahé, Zanzibar, Tanga, Zanzibar, Dar-Es-Salaam & Beira

ARRIVALS FROM:

Indonesia, S'pore In Port Buoy A-2
 Japan Feb. 14
 Feb. 20 "TILUWAI"
 "KARIE"
 "TISADANE"

HOLLAND-ASIA LINE

SAILINGS TO EUROPE
 "MELISKERK" Loading 10th March, Sailing 12th March, for Aden, Port Said, Alexandria, Genoa, Marseilles, Algiers, Oadiz, Casablanca, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Hamburg & Bremen.

"OVERIJSEL" Sailing approximately 27th March, 1956. Accepting cargo for Scandinavian & West African Ports with transshipment.

ARRIVALS FROM EUROPE Sailed/Sailing Rotterdam Arriving Hong Kong
 "OVERIJSEL" 14th Jan. 28th Feb.
 "AMERSKERK" 6th Feb. 17th Mar.
 "OUWERKERK" 17th Feb. 30th Mar.
 "AMERSKERK" 6th Mar. 20th Apr.

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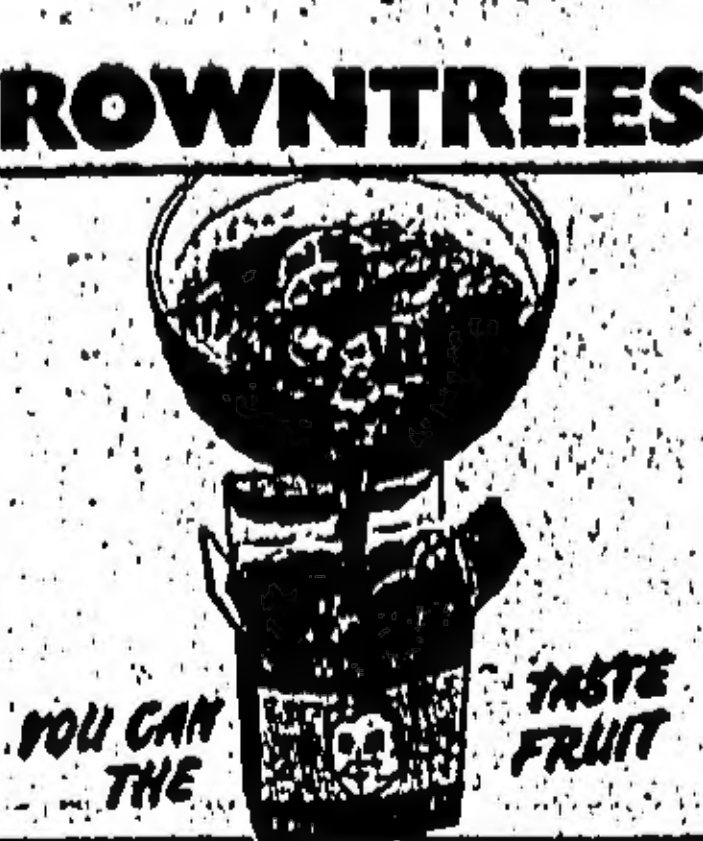
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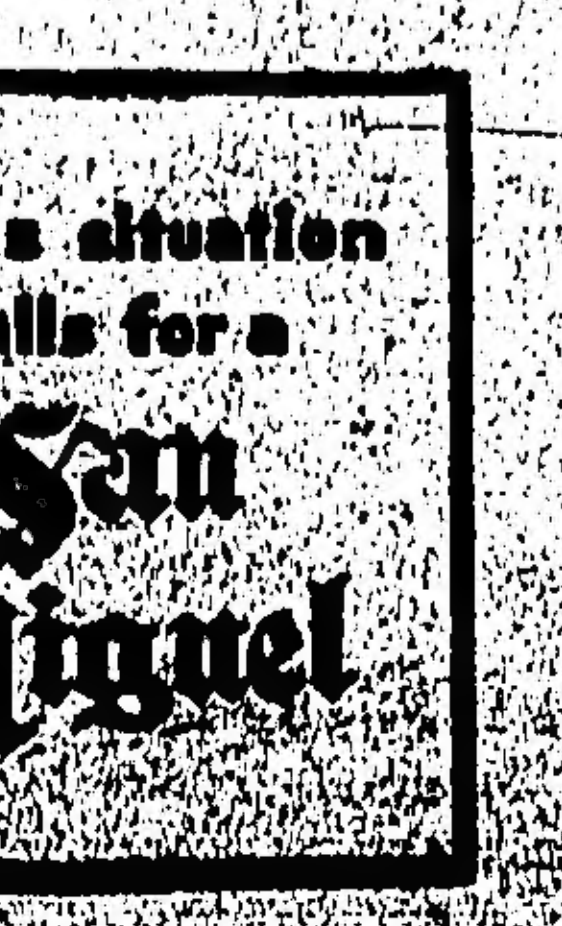
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Vessel	From	Arrives	Sails	For
"KOREAN BEAR" (Mariner)	Philippines	Feb. 17	Feb. 18	San Francisco & Los Angeles
"GOLDEN MARINER"	Philippines	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	San Francisco & Los Angeles
"JAPAN BEAR" (Mariner)	San Francisco	Feb. 24	Feb. 25	Oahu & Manila
"JAPAN BEAR" (Mariner)	Philippines	Mar. 7	Mar. 8	San Francisco & Los Angeles
"GOLDEN BEAR" (Mariner)	San Francisco	Mar. 7	Mar. 8	Oahu & Manila

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Loads for Kobe & Yokohama.

Barber Wilhelmsen Line

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m.v. "TUNGSHA" 18th Feb.
m.v. "TALLEYRAND" 5th Mar.
Accepting cargo on through bills of lading for transshipment to South America, Caribbean and West Indian Ports.
* Calls BALTIMORE Direct

Australia West Pacific Line



AUSTRALIA
BRISBANE SYDNEY MELBOURNE
m.v. "ARLON" 1st Mar.
Calls Manila, Sandakan, Madang, Lae & Itabai
* Calls Honiara

N. Y. K.
HK/NEAR EAST
m.v. "ZUIYO MARU" 17th Feb.
For Singapore, Aden, Djibouti, Massawa, Port Sudan, Jeddah, Suez, Port Said, Alexandria, Beirut, Latakia and Piraeus.
FOR EUROPE
m.v. "AKITA MARU" 8th Mar.
For Singapore, Port Said, Genoa, Marseilles, Tangier, Casablanca, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Hamburg

Lloyd Triestino

To Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Aden, Port Said, Naples & Genoa

HONGKONG NAPLES GENOA
Arrives Sails Arrives
m.v. "ASIA" 25th Feb. 27th Feb. 22nd Mar. 24th Mar.
m.v. "VICTORIA" 20th Mar. 20th Mar. 21st Apr. 23rd Apr.
Accepting cargo on through bills of lading to Mediterranean and Adriatic Ports, also East, South and West African Ports.

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Swedish East Asia Co. Ltd.

ARRIVALS FROM EUROPE

Sails	Arrives	Arrives
Gothenburg	Rotterdam	Hongkong
m.v. "MINIKOI" 20th Dec	14th Jan.	27th Feb.
m.v. "JAPAN" 10th Jan.	9th Feb.	20th Mar.

SAILINGS TO EUROPE

Sails	Sails
H.K.	H.K.
m.v. "SUDAN" 20th Feb.	20th Feb.
m.v. "MINIKOI" 29th Mar.	29th Mar.
m.v. "JAPAN" 29th Apr.	29th Apr.

ADEN, PORT SAID, GENOA, MARSEILLES, CASABLANCA, ANTWERP, ROTTERDAM, AMSTERDAM, BREMEN, HAMBURG, COPENHAGEN, OLSO & GOTHENBURG.

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FROM EUROPE

m.v. "AWATA MARU" 15th Feb.
Loads for Japan via Manila
HK/NEAR EAST

m.v. "ZUIYO MARU" 17th Feb.
For Singapore, Aden, Djibouti, Massawa, Port Sudan, Jeddah, Suez, Port Said, Alexandria, Beirut, Latakia and Piraeus.

HONG KONG/PARSIAN GULF LINE

s.s. "BINGO MARU" 21st Feb.
For Singapore, Madras, Colombo, Karachi, Bahrain, Kuwait, Basrah, Khorramshahr, Abadan and Saurashtra District.

HONG KONG/BANGKOK LINE

"EISHO MARU" 29th Feb.
For Saigon and Bangkok.

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TRADE AND COMMERCE SECTION

The Sterling Area Has Decided Advantages

From Ronald Boxall

London, Feb. 20.

Satisfaction rather than relief is the proper reaction to the decision that Malaya will remain in the sterling area after attainment of self-government next year.

When it is considered that the colonies produce something like twice as much gold and dollars as the rest of the sterling countries put together and that Malaya is the biggest dollar earner of them all, the importance of Malaya's membership of the sterling area is self-evident.

But the Malayan politicians who attended the London conference and took part in the "full and frank" discussions of the colony's position in the sterling area did not decide to remain in it out of loyalty alone.

Common Knowledge

They agreed that their continued membership was to the common advantage of the Federation and other sterling countries.

How advantageous that membership is to the remainder of the sterling area is already a matter of common knowledge. Malaya produces about one-third of the world's natural rubber and the rest of the two commodities are among the sterling area's biggest dollar earners. Between them they earned \$175 million in 1954 and this figure is believed to have been raised to \$225 million last year.

The value of Malaya's contribution to the sterling area's dollar pool cannot be underestimated. But it should not be assumed that because of this that its membership of the sterling area is a one-sided bargain. There are distinct advantages to Malaya's membership which will not automatically disappear when the colony becomes self-governing and may indeed increase.

Nor is Malaya the only colony which has decided on the thresh-

old of self-government to link its future with that of the sterling area. Nigeria and the Gold Coast—who, like Malaya, are large net contributors to the central dollar reserves—have also decided to remain within the sterling area when they gain their independence. What is it that makes these countries want to continue their association with the sterling area when they are given a free choice? Why do they not keep the dollars they earn instead of selling them to the British Exchange Equalisation Fund and getting sterling balances in return? Why if they are large net earners of dollars do they continue to restrict their imports from America so that other sterling countries can remain net spenders of dollars?

Present Position

One answer to these questions is that dollars are not everything despite the importance attached to them in all discussions on world trade. In 1954 (the last year for which figures are available) the colonies spent \$81 million on imports from the United States and \$25 million from Canada. But their imports from the rest of the sterling area amounted to \$500 million and those from Western Europe, which are also paid for in sterling, were worth \$171 million. There is no doubt which of the two currencies is the most

important to the colonies. But the advantage of belonging to the select group of countries having sterling as their common currency does not end there. The answer to those who accuse Britain of "holding her colonies" was given at some length by Dr Ida Greaves in her book "Colonial Monetary Conditions."

"When we look at the present position of the colonial territories," she wrote, "we see that they are an integral part of the world's largest monetary area, the sterling area, that their own currencies are normally stable in relation to sterling, and that they have no balance of payments problems in the usual sense of the term."

"If a colony is unable to meet its external obligations it is because of the lack of money—not because of lack of foreign exchange. As long as the money is available, it can be transferred to London without any difficulty and converted into foreign currencies and on whatever terms prevailing regulations permit."

Other Advantages

"Colonies also have internal interest rates distinctly lower than those of dependent countries with comparable types of economy, and they can borrow in London on terms as favourable as those of Her Majesty's Government, which are better than those enjoyed by foreign countries when they use the London capital market. In short it might be said that the colonies have monetary stability without the necessity of maintaining financial solvency."

"And as a concomitant of the way in which their monetary relations with the United Kingdom have developed, they are relieved of a need of a system of internal taxation adequate for maintaining the exchange value of their currency on lines corresponding to the taxation in the United Kingdom which supports the value of sterling by restricting consumption."

Dr Greaves lists other advantages that the colonies enjoy through their membership of the sterling area: advantages "which no country should treat lightly." If some colonies should decide on attaining self-government to end their association with the sterling area in spite of greater instability and higher costs this would involve, she adds, "it should not be too readily assumed that such a severance would be of detriment to the United Kingdom."

Too Ready

This too ready assumption is often noticeable in discussions on the part played by Malaya and West African colonies in

the sterling area system. But the fact is that both sides would suffer if these colonies severed their link with other sterling countries. Once this fact is clearly understood the question "who gets the most out of what?" becomes irrelevant. — London Express Service.

London Stocks Take Pounding

By C. T. Hallinan

London, Feb. 13. Markets took a fairly serious pounding last week.

Apparently the fear was that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, unable to find much evidence that the measures thus far taken effectively checked the country's inflationary prices, would do something drastic, like suddenly lifting the bank rate up from its present 4½ per cent to 6 per cent or even 6½ per cent.

Those who had borrowed money from their bank would find themselves paying interest at the rate of, say, 8 per cent. Those alarmed at this possibility began last week selling their gilt-edged stocks or their high-grade industrial shares in order to raise cash and pay off their indebtedness.

Shocking

The selling of British government stocks was fairly shocking. War Loan fell 3s 9d, the lowest it has ever been. Old Consols—known for a century as "the safest investment in the world"—tumbled 2½d to 5½d sterling. Hardly any of the medium or long-dated issues lost less than 20 shillings.

Apparently no bargain-hunters appeared. Among the blue chip industrial shares there was visible a similar urgent desire to get hold of ready cash. Shares like Rolls-Royce and Associated Electricals lost 4 shillings over the week.—United Press.

The Bank Of England Statement

London, Feb. 13. The Bank of England statement for the week ended Feb. 8, reads as follows:

Note in circulation	1,777,263,504
Public deposits	12,730,762
Private deposits	304,970,829
Government securities	237,371,528
Other securities	43,393,220
Reserves	50,304,822
Ratio	15.3

—United Press.

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m.s.	Due at Hongkong	5th Mar.
"FOONA"	5th Mar.	
"SUNBABA"	8th Mar.	
"SANOVA"	19th Apr.	
"FAUSTRIA"	21st May	
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FOR EUROPE

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"ELISABETH BAKER"	Sailed	Sailed	Sailed	Sailed	Sailed	23 Feb.	1 Mar.	5 Mar.	7 Mar.	8 Mar.	15 Mar.
"GERTH BAKER"	17 Feb.	22 Feb.	26 Feb.	3 Mar.	7 Mar.	1 Apr.	2 Apr.	6 Apr.	8 Apr.	9 Apr.	10 Apr.
"ANNA BAKER"	21 Mar.	4 Apr.	10 Apr.	14 Apr.	18 Apr.	13 May	14 May	18 May	20 May	21 May	26 May

FROM W. AUSTRALIA & MALAYA

EAST BOUND	Sail Fremantle	Sail SPORING	HONGKONG	Sail	JAPAN	Sail	APR. VANCO.	APR. Seattle	Columbia River	APR. L.A.	APR. S.F.
"ANNA BAKER"	13 Feb.	23 Feb.	26 Feb.	27 Feb.	3 Mar.	9 Mar.	20 Mar.	24 Mar.	6 Apr.	12 Apr.	19 Apr.
"ELISABETH BAKER"	30 Mar.	9 Apr.	10 Apr.	11 Apr.	12 Apr.	18 Apr.	4 May	8 May	21 May	26 May	31 May

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"CHUSAN"	7th March	13th April
"CORFU"	27th March	30th April

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Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CANTON"	8th March	8th April
"CARTHAGE"	6th April	7th May
"CHUSAN"	26th April	27th May
"CORFU"	4th May	4th June

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sails 22nd Feb. for Japan

"ORDIA" due 25th Feb. from Karachi & Bombay
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"STEEL DESIGNER"	20 Feb.	10 Mar.	8 Apr.
"STEEL TRAVELER"	22 Mar.	15 Apr.	7 May

SAILINGS TO SAIGON BANGKOK & SINGAPORE

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"STEEL ARTISAN" 8 Mar.
"STEEL DESIGNER" 9 Apr.
"STEEL TRAVELER" 8 May

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